

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7560

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO, LE, UN, MOPS, IS, SG, NP

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF ILMAC CHAIRMAN ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF ON APRIL 11, FRENCH COLONEL
JEAN ESPINASSY, CHAIRMAN OF ILMAC, COMMENTED THAT HE WAS
"VERY PESSIMISTIC" AND THAT HE FORESAW "DIFFICULT DAYS."
HE BELIEVED THAT BOTH FATAH AND THE REJECTIONISTS WERE
LIKELY TO TRY TO OCCUPY THE TERRITORY FROM WHICH THE
ISRAELIS WERE GOING TO WITHDRAW FROM ON APRIL 11 AND 14.
TO DO THIS, THE PALESTINIANS WOULD HAVE TO PASS THROUGH
U.N. LINES. ESPINASSY COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS NO
PREDICTING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AS A RESULT.

2. ESPINASSY SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO MAIN TOPICS
DISCUSSED WHEN SIILASVUO MET WITH KHOURY IN BEIRUT ON
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APRIL 10: DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY SOUTH AND LOCATION
OF UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS. THE LEBANESE HAD CONFIRMED
THAT THEY WOULD SEND TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE COMPANIES
SOUTH WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE TWO SIDES HAD NOT
DECIDED ON PRECISELY WHERE THE COMPANIES WOULD BE DEPLOYED.
ESPINASSY COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED GOL WOULD IN FACT
DEPLOY SOME FORCES SOUTH WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HE THOUGHT

THEY WOULD AMOUNT TO TWO RATHER THAN THREE COMPANIES. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PLO WAS UNLIKELY TO ALLOW THE LEBANESE TO PASS THROUGH PALESTINIAN LINES.

3. BOUTROS AND SIILASVUO HAD AGREED ON THE USE OF ZAHRANI AS UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS, ESPINASSY SAID. THE SYRIANS, HOWEVER, HAD OBJECTED BECAUSE SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE IN BUILDINGS WHICH UNIFIL WANTED TO OCCUPY. ESPINASSY, HOWEVER, THOUGHT THE SYRIANS WOULD EVENTUALLY ALLOW UNIFIL TO USE THE BUILDINGS IN QUESTION.

4. ESPINASSY NOTED THAT MINOR CLASHES INVOLVING UNIFIL WERE OCCURRING FAIRLY FREQUENTLY IN SOUTH LEBANON, ALTHOUGH NONE HAD YET BEEN REPORTED FOR APRIL 10. THE WORST INCIDENTS HAD BEEN THE FIRING AT KAWKABA ON APRIL 6 AND 7. (UN SPOKESMAN SAMIR SANBAR CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT FRENCH FORCES NEAR TYRE HAD SHOT AND WOUNDED AN UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MAN ON APRIL 7. SEE BEIRUT 2011.)

5. THE NEPALESE ADVANCE PARTY HAD ARRIVED IN ISRAEL ON APRIL 11. ALTHOUGH THE BULK OF THE NEPALESE WOULD BE IN ISRAEL BY APRIL 17, NO TIMETABLE FOR THEIR DEPLOYMENT IN LEBANON HAD YET BEEN WORKED OUT.

6. THREE SENEGALESE OFFICERS WERE COMING TO BEIRUT THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 11 TO DISCUSS THE DEPLOYMENT OF A
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SENGALESE CONTINGENT HERE. ESPINASSY FEARED THAT SENEGAL MAY HAVE CHANGED ITS MIND AND THAT THE THREE OFFICERS WERE COMING NOT SO MUCH TO DETERMINE WHERE TO DEPLOY THE SENEGALESE CONTINGENT, BUT WHETHER TO DO SO. PARKER

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